

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00396 191706Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /051 W  
-----200218Z 099327 /66

R 191428Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1375  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINTO BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR

C O F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0396

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SY  
SUBJECT: CHANGE IN SOCIALIST UNIONSIT PARTY LEADERSHIP

REF: DAMASCUS 364

1. SUMMARY: MINISCULE SOCIALIST UNIONSIT PARTY, MEMBER  
OF PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT (PNF), RECENTLY SELECTED NEW  
SECGEN. PARTY HAS PUBLICLY PRAISED SYRO-EGYPTIAN RAPPROACHE-  
MENT. AL-BATTH EDITORIAL CRITICIZING SU MINISTER OF HOUSING  
REPORTEDLY INTENDED AS INDIRECT ATTACK ON FONMIN KHADDAM.  
END SUMMARY.

2. MINISCULE SOCIALST UNIONSIT PARTY, COMPOSED OF EX-BAATHISTS  
WHO BROKE AWAY FROM BAATH PARTY IN EARLY 1960'S AND REJOINED  
FORMER COMRADES WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PNF, HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED  
SPATE OF PUBLICITY IN SYRIAN MEDIA. JAN. 2 MEDIA  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00396 191706Z

REPORTED SU STATEMENT PRAISING SYRO-EGYPTINA UNIFIED COMMAND.  
JAN. 4 MEDIA REPORTED CABLE TO PRES. ASAD FROM SU SECGEN  
AHMAD AL-ASAAD SUPPORTING RAPPORACHEMENT WITH CAIRO.

3. LATTER CABLE, ACCORDING TO LOCAL COLUMNIST, IN  
EFFECT ANNOUNCED CHANGE IN COMMAND OF SU LEADERSHIP.  
ASAAD HAD REPLACED FAYIZ ISMAIL, AND PUBLICITY ACCORDED HIS

CALBE TO PRES. ASAD CONSTITUTED OFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE OF NEW SEC GEN. SOURCE STATED THAT CHANGE PRESUMABLY REFLECTED PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES WITHIN SU, SINCE ITS SIZE HAD DIMINISHED TO APPROXIMATELY FORTY-FIFTY MEMBERS. NO BIO INFO YET AVAILABLE.

4. OF MORE SIGNIFICANCE, IN SOURCE'S VIEW, WAS SHARP CRITICISM OF SU MINISTER OF HOUSING MUHARRAM TAYYARA CONTAINED IN JAN. 7 AL-BAATH EDITORIAL UNDER SIGNATURE OF SENIOR EDITOR AMID KHULI (DAMASCUS 151). KHULI CONDEMNED TAYYARA FOR ENLIGENCE IN PERMITTING BANIAN RIVER CONTAMINATION TO PROCEED UNCHECKED, THEREBY CAUSING OUTBREAK OF TYPHOID AND DIARRHEA CASES. KHULI CONCLUDED WITH REMINDER THAT HIS PAPER ISSUED BY BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND. SOURCE, WHO IS COLUMNIST AT AL-BAATH, TOLD EMBOFF THAT KHULI WAS INDRECTLY ATTACKING FONMIN KHADDAM, WHO IS CLOSELY RELATED TO TAYYARA. KHULI APPARENTLY BELIEVED HE COULD COUNT ON POLITICAL SUPPORT FROM HIS PATRON, RIF-AT AL-ASAD. UNFORTUNATELY, NOTED SOURCE, RIF'AT HAS BEEN UNDERGOING TROUBLES OF HIS OWN RECENTLY. SHORTLY AFTER EDITORIAL APPEARED, KHULI PHONED BY BAATH PARTY DEPSEC GEN AL-AHMAR, WHO CURTLY ADVISED HIM HE HAD GONE TOO FAR.

5. COMMENT: SOCIALIST UNIONSIT PARTY, WITH ITS LIMITED MEMBERSHIP, IN NO POSITION TO SERIOUSLY AFFECT REGIME'S POLICIES, BUT ITS VERY EXISTENCE SYMBOLIZES PRES. ASAD'S COMMITMENT TO BROADENING REGIME'S BASE BEYOND THE BAATH. OCCASIONALLY, AS KHULI-TAYYARA INCIDENT DEMONSTRATES, OUR EFFORTS TO FOLLOW SU POLITICKING PROVE REWARDING, IN THIS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 00396 191706Z

CASE REVEALING MORE EVIDENCE OF INTERNAL BAATHIST FACTIONAL STRAINS.  
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY UNITY, PARTY LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC00396  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770020-0936  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770138/aaaabhep.tel  
**Line Count:** 100  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 74f2a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 DAMASCUS 364  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3562253  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHANGE IN SOCIALIST UNIONSIT PARTY LEADERSHIP  
**TAGS:** PINT, SY, (ISMAIL, FAYIZ), (AL-ASAAD, AHMAD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/74f2a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009